

For the week of October 8-14, 2017

Based on Roger Huang's message from October 8

Open Your Eyes

Best Way to Prepare for Your Group? Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, Pastor Tucker modifies his sermon right before service. So, allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

[Format for the Evening]

WELCOME:

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

KEY PASSAGE: *"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!'" –John 4:34-35*

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

Our key passage for this week starts with Jesus reminding His disciples of what He came to do. Jesus said that His food, the thing that sustained Him in His life on Earth, was to do the will of the Father. So many times we get caught up in the practicalities of life. But God's will isn't always practical. There will be times that God will ask us to go out of our way to reach someone He has called us to minister to. In the account leading up to this passage, Jesus insisted on stopping in Samaria, where He met the woman at the well. He was on a one-person mission. There were so many variables that made this encounter unique. Her reputation was such that no respectable man would even have a conversation with her. Jesus, in His tender loving care, ignored his practical need for food, ignored the mandates of society, and met this woman where she was. He asked her for a drink, and gave her eternity in return.

Romans 12:2 exhorts us to be transformed, to allow God to change our priorities so we can live out the will of God. We are to model our lives after Jesus. The will of God for us, as it was for Him, is to finish the work the Father has already begun. In this example, Jesus finished what had already begun in the Samaritan woman's heart. We may not be called to lead someone to Christ start to finish. For some of us, we may be in a season of planting, of watering, or growing. There is so much preparation that must happen to get the food ready to be brought into harvest. There are things that must happen in our lives to prepare us to reap what has been sown.

There are people we meet who are at the beginning of their journey. They are at the beginning of getting broken down. There will be some stages in this application when we need to encourage and be gentle in our example of the love of Christ and never expect them to respond with joy that breaks into revival. Are we ok with that?

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. What do we think will satisfy us, compared to what Jesus says will satisfy? Discuss the main differences you see between the two.
2. Where are your priorities in life, based on how you spend your time? What are you laboring for—what you see, or heavenly treasure?
3. What is the field that God has called you to labor in?
4. Are you prepared to answer the call, whether it's to a great multitude, or to one person? As a group, talk about the reasons we give for missing opportunities that seem small, and compare those reasons with God's perspective.
5. Do you trust God's sovereignty to bring fruit, regardless of the call?

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

Have God's perspective. Jesus is telling the disciples to be looking for broken people who are looking for help. There are people who are just waiting for the Good News of Jesus. It was not one of the disciples who went to the Samaritans. It was the woman. She did not wait to go tell of what she had seen and heard. She was the unexpected missionary among them. We don't need to look to the most eloquent speaker to do the work of reaping the harvest. God will use those who have experienced His love and mercy, and are willing to tell people what Jesus has done for them. He will use those who are willing to be sent. The Samaritan woman received the living water that goes in and quenches the soul, and that is what made her a missionary. As a result, many people believed and came to hear Jesus teach. His detour to meet with one woman became a chance to minister to so many more.

The fields are already white for harvest. There is a harvest field of people who are ready now. We must take care to not be so busy in our everyday lives that we miss it. Jesus has just shown the disciples that they are so concerned about their plan—getting where they planned to go and meeting practical needs—that they are missing the most important part. We need to be sure to be looking around in our families, in our city, to see if there is a field that is ready for harvest. We are to pray for the people He brings into our lives, and we must be prepared to be bold when He tells us it's time. The only way to know when the time comes is to be paying attention. Always be aware of those God has brought into your life. Stop doing what you think you're supposed to do, and look up. Today is the day of salvation.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. Who in our lives do we overlook that would represent a ripe heart for the gospel?
2. What are some reasons we discount people as ready to hear the gospel?
3. Why do we miss the harvest? What are our distractions that stand in the way?
4. What does reaping mean when it comes to ministry? Give examples of people you've ministered to who were ready to receive the message.

TAKE TIME TO PRAY:

Please pray that God would show believers how to live like Jesus, empowered by the leading of the Holy Spirit so that their divinely inspired and life-changing love reveals God to the world around them. Pray that the lives of the family members at Calvary Boise glorify God and draw others into His Kingdom. Pray that we will be actively engaged in pursuing revival.

TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

Note: *Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at tucker@ccboise.org with your insight.*

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men.” –1 Timothy 2:1

Stop praying so much for yourself; begin to ask for unselfish things, and see if God won't give you faith. See how much easier it will be to believe for another than for your own petty self. Try the effect of praying for the world, for definite things, for difficult things, for glorious things, for things that will honor Christ and save mankind, and after you have received a few wonderful answers to prayer in this direction, see if you won't feel stronger to touch your own little burden with a Divine faith, and then go back again to the high place of unselfish prayer for others. –A. B. Simpson

About the Author: Albert Benjamin Simpson was the Canadian founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination. He was a preacher, theologian and author concerned, like the church he began, with the importance of global missions. He lived from 1843 – 1919.

Our Community Group:

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Prayer Requests for Our International Missions

- Please pray for Commissioned Week, which begins next weekend (Oct. 14-21). The goal is to ignite the missional flame in our body. Please pray for the successful planning and execution of this event as well as the practical working of the Holy Spirit. Pray that the body is exhorted and encouraged and that Christ is glorified.
- Continue to pray for Becca Brown, wife of Pastor Marlon Brown in Vancouver, Canada. She continues to deal with severe nerve pain resulting from an accident several years ago. Pray for extra grace for Becca and her family as they deal with this on a daily basis, and that the Lord would provide a lasting solution to her pain.
- Pray for the planning process for the Giving Tree Lot, which sells Christmas trees as a fundraiser for our native pastors, staff, and their families in India. Pray that the Lord will prepare the hearts of those who will be volunteering and those who will be purchasing a tree for Christmas. We could use prayer for volunteers to help out with the needs pre-tree lot, during the tree lot, and post-tree lot. Please contact alissa@calvaryboise.com if you would like more details about getting involved.

Prayer Requests for our Local Ministry

- Pray for our premarital ministry. Every week, discipler couples meet with engaged couples to help prepare them for marriage. The curriculum is designed to cover a variety of challenges that all married couples face. Pray that the ministry would be fruitful, and that these new couples would be set up to succeed in their marriages, and glorify the Lord.
- Pray for our youth pastors and leaders as they come alongside parents in helping direct our youth to the Lord during this challenging stage in life. Pray that our teens would develop deep roots in their relationships with the Lord, and that they would stay close to Him throughout their lives.
- Please continue to pray for more people to volunteer to serve in our special needs ministry. Pray that we will be a blessing to the special needs community.